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# Pre-Doctoral Psychology Internship Program

Metropolitan Detention Center

Los Angeles, California

Accredited By:  
American Psychological Association  
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation  
750 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002-4242  
(202) 336-5979

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## LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles is California's largest city, both in terms of territory and population. The current population is estimated to be approximately 3.5 million filling 465 square miles. Los Angeles is not a city in the traditional sense of the word. Instead, it is a collection of intermingling communities, each contributing their own identity and character.

Los Angeles offers many unique attractions that contribute to its character. These sights are desirable locales for both LA residents and international tourists. From Beverly Hills, best known for the exclusive Rodeo Drive and the luxurious homes, to downtown urban Los Angeles, there is a successful blend of diverse cultures, peppered with distinctive arts, foods, and way of life.

Los Angeles boasts a mild climate with temperatures averaging 70 degrees. The Pacific Ocean borders the western coast and offers hundreds of miles of beaches. You can swim, surf, snorkel, bicycle, or fish at most of the state's beaches. Or, you can traverse the trendy boardwalks by foot, skateboard, or in-line skates.

Los Angeles is considered to be one of the nation's major theatrical cities. Presentations range from comedic theater in one of the well-known comedy clubs, to more serious productions on famous stages. Many small theaters throughout the area also present dramas that range from the classical to the contemporary. In addition to live theater, first-run films are available at almost any one of the hundreds of movie theaters.

Los Angeles also provides opportunities for shopping, dining, entertainment, and education. The city and its surrounding communities have many attractions, including Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, Universal Studios, Farmer's Market, Mann's Chinese Theater, and many more.

The Metropolitan Detention Center is located in downtown Los Angeles within easy walking distance to historic Union Station, colorful Olvera Street, and the extraordinary Chinatown. It is centrally located near the 110, 101, and 5 freeways.

## **PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES AT THE METROPOLITAN DETENTION CENTER LOS ANGELES**

The mission of the Metropolitan Detention Center at Los Angeles (MDC-LA) is to serve as a holding facility for individuals arrested for violation of federal crimes awaiting court actions. In essence, it is a federal jail with a holding capacity of approximately 1000, housing male and female inmates. Approximately 120 of the inmates have already been sentenced and are serving their time at MDC-LA. The inmates are of various racial, ethnic, education, and socioeconomic backgrounds. They also present with a wide range of mental and emotional conditions, including affective and adjustment disorders, substance abuse, personality disorders, psychosis and dementia.

### **Psychology Services Mission Statement**

The primary mission of Psychology Services within the Bureau of Prisons is to provide appropriate psychological, psychoeducational, and consultative services to inmates and staff. Psychological services within this institution are designed to ensure that every inmate with a documented need and/or interest in psychological treatment has access to a level of care comparable to that available in the community.

### **Services and Programs**

The services provided by the Psychology Department at MDC-LA are primarily brief in nature. They include psychological screenings of newly admitted inmates, brief treatment of adjustment symptoms, crisis intervention, and suicide risk assessment and prevention. We also conduct forensic evaluations for the federal courts, psychological assessment for other referral questions, drug abuse treatment, and consultation with staff for inmate management concerns and personal issues. Some opportunities exist to provide brief and long-term treatment in individual and group formats.

### **Special Programs Administered by the Psychology Department**

**Forensic Program** - The Psychology Department at MDC-LA is designated as one of the Forensic Study Centers in the Bureau. As a Study Center, the department conducts court-ordered evaluations on inmates from all over the country to assess competency to stand trial and insanity during the commission of an offense. Court testimony on these evaluations is sometimes required of Psychology Service staff members.

**Drug Abuse Program** - The Drug Abuse Program at MDC-LA consists of a 40-hour drug education program. It begins with an educational component and is followed by a more process-oriented phase. In the latter phase inmates are encouraged to examine the role substance abuse has played in their lives.

**Suicide Prevention Program** - The Suicide Prevention Program entails identification of, and intervention with, inmates who are at risk for suicide. The procedures include screening of incoming inmates for suicide risk, ongoing staff training for identification of inmates at risk for suicide, special housing to prevent self-destructive behavior, and a training program for inmate companions to provide 24-hour observation of individuals identified as high risk for suicide.

**Mental Health Program** - The Mental Health Program concentrates on those inmates placed in the Special Programs Unit. These inmates typically need closer observation than those in the general population. This program requires Psychology Services to have a close working relationship with the medical department because many of these inmates take psychotropic medication.

**Employee Assistance Program** - This program allows staff members experiencing personal or family mental health problems to obtain confidential treatment from a psychologist on staff or through referral to an appropriate community practitioner.

### **Staff and Resources**

Currently, MDC-LA has three full-time psychology staff members. All are licensed psychologists in the state of California. Psychology Services is centralized within the institution, which contributes to a professional atmosphere and a close working relationship with colleagues. A full-time secretary provides the staff with clerical support. A large conference room is available for meetings, seminars, and group treatment. Each staff member and intern has an individual office and personal computer.

#### **Maureen Burris, Ph.D. - Forensic Psychologist, (acting) Director of Clinical Training**

Dr. Burris received her doctorate from the California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles in 1989 and is licensed in California and Oregon. She completed an internship with Skid Row Mental Health Services in downtown Los Angeles. Prior to joining the Bureau of Prisons in 1992 she worked in an outpatient clinic with chronically mentally ill and personality-disordered adults. Her interests are in psychology training, clinical supervision, forensic evaluations, working with female offenders, and sexual minority issues.

#### **Ralph Ihle, Ph.D. - Chief, Psychology Services**

Dr. Ihle graduated from the University of Southern California in 1988, and is licensed in California. He has been involved in the specialty of forensic psychology since 1987. His primary responsibilities include administrative duties, forensic evaluations, and the Suicide Prevention Program. His interests are in forensic psychology, cognitive-behavioral and existential-humanistic approaches to treatment, malingering, crime investigative analysis, and psychopathy.

#### **Lisa Hope, Psy.D. - Forensic Psychologist**

Dr. Hope received her doctorate from Pacific University in 2000, and is licensed in California. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at MDC-Los Angeles. She worked as a Staff Psychologist and

Mental Health Programs Coordinator at MDC Brooklyn until April, 2003. Her interests are in working with chronically mentally ill offenders, interpersonal approaches to treatment, psychopathy, forensic evaluations, geropsychology, and neuropsychology.

## **PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT THE METROPOLITAN DETENTION CENTER LOS ANGELES**

### **Accreditation**

The MDC-LA Psychology Internship Program received full accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA) in 1995. The Internship Program also follows the criteria outlined by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC).

The MDC-LA internship is considered a full-time position and offers a stipend of approximately \$32,000 for the next program year. It assumes forty hours a week (including eight hours at an outplacement) of direct clinical services, assessment, research, consultation, and supervision activities. Release time for attending dissertation defense, meetings of the intern's research committee, and professional conferences can be arranged with the Director of Training and the Chief Psychologist.

### **Objectives and Philosophy**

The training offered by the MDC-LA Psychology Internship Program is designed to provide a well-rounded training experience leading to the development of a clinical generalist. The training objectives are derived from both the mission of the agency and community standards. The primary goal of the Psychology Internship Training Program is to provide training as preparation for professional practice, consolidating the knowledge, skills, and abilities acquired through graduate training. To accomplish this goal, the program stresses development of competence in psychological assessment, intervention, and consultation. Interns are selected based on their preparation for more intensive work in these areas, their ability to provide psychological services, and their capacity for professional growth.

The MDC-LA Psychology Internship Program is a comprehensive learning experience in a multidisciplinary institutional setting with emphasis in the areas of corrections and forensic work. Interns are exposed to a variety of clinical situations, with different supervisors and a range of client problems. It is an intensive experience, structured to enhance the intern's abilities, aid in the acquisition of new skills, and facilitate autonomy in practice with appropriate consultation.

### **Training Activities**

**Supervision and Training** - Each intern will be involved in training 32 hours each week at MDC-LA and eight hours at an outplacement training site. The 32 hours are apportioned accordingly; two hours

of individual supervision by a licensed psychologist, two hours for group supervision and training, two hours per week of department rounds, and more than 20 hours of providing direct clinical services and related activities.

The outplacement is provided in an attempt to complement the training activities at MDC-LA. Interns spend eight hours one day a week working at another agency, engaging in activities not readily available in a correctional setting. The purpose of the outplacement is to offer generalist preparation for becoming a professional psychologist. Interns have been placed in community mental health centers providing outpatient therapy, psychiatric inpatient facilities offering services to acutely psychotic individuals, sex offender treatment programs conducting groups and individual therapy, and at a facility to conduct psychological assessments.

**Assessment** - Interns have the opportunity to enhance their diagnostic and assessment skills by evaluating inmates entering the institution for emotional or mental problems. Court-ordered psychological evaluations are also conducted and can involve the administration of a full battery of tests, including intelligence, neuropsychological, and personality tests. Diagnostic testing may also be conducted when treatment and diagnosis are in question.

**Treatment** - As part of training, interns provide long-term and brief treatment under the supervision of staff. The services to inmates range from crisis intervention and case management with acutely psychotic and suicidal individuals, to more traditional approaches with individuals who manifest personality or behavioral disorders. A broad range of diagnostic groups present for treatment, including adjustment disorders, affective and anxiety disorders, substance abuse, personality disorders, dementia, and psychosis.

**Consultation** - Interns are supervised in providing consultation to staff concerning management of mentally disordered inmates on housing units, conflict negotiation and resolution, suicide prevention, and victim's assistance to staff. Opportunities are also provided to participate in staff training activities.

## **THE TRAINING PROGRAM**

### **Areas of Supervised Experience and Program Activities**

The Psychology Internship Program consists of three main rotations each covering a period of approximately four months. The rotations include:

General Population  
Forensic Evaluations  
Mental Health

In addition to the individual rotations, each intern will be involved in a few activities that will continue over the course of the year. The general intern program requirements, with the estimated time spent engaged in the activities each week and over the course of the year, are listed below.

1. One long-term therapy case will be maintained. Videotapes will be made of these sessions for review in individual and group supervision.
2. Each intern is responsible for developing and implementing a workshop or training session for staff during the year. Although there is flexibility in the development of this program, it is anticipated that the topics will cover areas of staff interest such as stress management, assertiveness training, relaxation techniques, etc.
3. In an effort to provide a well-rounded training experience, each intern will spend 8 hours each week working in an outplacement setting. One hour of supervision will be provided by a licensed psychologist.
4. There will be extensive individual supervision, group supervision, and training seminars.

### Breakdown of activities in which all interns participate in an average 40-hour week

Supervision:	
Individual	2 hours
Group	1
Department rounds	2
Training seminars	1
Off-site outplacement	1
Long-term cases	1
Outplacement	<u>7</u>
<b>Total Time for General Activities</b>	<b>15 hours</b>
Specific rotation	<u>25</u>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>40 hours</b>

## **GENERAL POPULATION ROTATION**

Supervisor: Maureen Burris, Ph.D.

The general population rotation focuses primarily on providing general mental health services to inmates. Most of the work consists of screening and assessing the needs of the inmates, referring inmates for psychiatric consultation, conducting brief psychotherapy and group therapy, providing case management, responding to inmate's requests for services, and participation in the Admissions and Orientation Program for inmates.

### **Rotation Content Areas**

**Psychology Services Inmate Questionnaire (PSIQ)** - Each inmate completes the PSIQ (a screening questionnaire) upon arrival at the institution. These forms are forwarded to Psychology Services and reviewed for pertinent information. Each inmate who reports a history of mental health treatment, past or present suicidal thoughts, current symptoms, significant drug abuse history, or just requests to be evaluated by psychology staff, will be seen. An assessment will be conducted and services provided based on the inmate's needs. It is anticipated that approximately 15-20 screenings will be conducted each week by the psychology intern.

If it is determined that individuals need to be followed by Psychology Services, the psychology intern will complete the initial evaluation, discuss the case with their supervisor, and either pick up the case for their caseload (for case management or individual therapy) or refer to another staff member. Inmates with significant mental health history who may have difficulty adjusting in general population will be assessed for the Special Programs Unit or Segregation.

**Written Requests for Psychology Services** - Inmates also communicate a need for psychology services by completing a Written Request Form (also known as a "cop-out"). During the general population rotation, it is anticipated that the intern will respond to 5-8 written requests each week.

**Crisis Intervention** - This department is often called to respond to crisis situations. This may mean that an inmate is in the process of acting out or has just received upsetting news from home. This psychology intern will be involved in crisis intervention work.

**Case Management** - Because the population at MDC-LA is constantly in flux, it is difficult to provide on-going psychotherapy to many inmates. The goal for Psychology Services is to screen most inmates for psychological disorders and conduct case management so they can remain stable while at this institution. Psychology interns acquire a case management caseload from screening forms, written inmate requests, and crisis calls. This caseload will consist of approximately 35-40 cases. Some of these inmates will need to be seen more than once a week while others will only require monthly follow-up.



**Group Psychotherapy** - MDC-LA has a female unit whose inmates often have special needs. This intern will organize and become the primary therapist for a group on the female unit.

**Initial Intakes** - Each week the psychology intern will complete intakes for the Cadre Unit. This consists of interviewing the inmate, reviewing the inmate's central file, and completing a summary intake form.

Breakdown of activities in which interns participate in the

General Population Rotation

Screenings	10 hours
Written Requests	2
Crisis Intervention	4
Case Management	4
Group Therapy	2
Initial Intakes	1

**Total Time for General Population Rotation      23 hours**

**Required Reading for the General Population Rotation**

During the first week of the rotation, time should be spent reviewing the following document:

Bureau of Prisons Psychology Services Manual

American Psychiatric Association. (1994). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (4th ed.). Washington, D. C.: Author.

Budman, S. (1981). Forms of brief therapy. New York: Guilford Press.

Vinograd, S., & Yalom, I. (1989). A concise guide to group psychotherapy. Washington: American Psychiatric Press.

## **FORENSIC EVALUATION ROTATION**

Supervisor: Ralph Ihle, Ph.D.

In the forensic evaluation rotation the intern participates in conducting court-ordered psychological evaluations with respect to the legal issues of competency to stand trial, insanity during the commission of an offense, and other evaluation questions posed by the court. The rotation is a four-month supervised experience that allows the psychology intern to develop skills and in-depth understanding in the areas of forensic evaluation procedures, federal criminal law, ethics in the practice of forensic psychology, and psychological assessment, including diagnostic interviews, administration of various testing instruments, and psychological/forensic report writing.

The intern's experience on the forensic rotation will include direct observation of the supervisor conducting forensic evaluations; conducting forensic diagnostic interviews under direct supervision; learning the administration of unfamiliar tests; administration and interpretation of test batteries; conversing with court personnel concerning forensic cases; documentation of forensic evaluations; forensic report writing; the case management of psychology cases on the Special Housing Unit; and crisis intervention and suicide assessment and prevention with various emergencies that arise.

**Forensic evaluation** - The first month of the rotation involves becoming acquainted with the relevant forensic evaluation literature, direct observation of the process of conducting forensic assessments, and supervised experience in administration of psychological tests. The remainder of the rotation involves conducting complete forensic assessments under direct supervision, including administration of psychological tests, diagnostic interviews, contact with court personnel for information, and forensic report writing. During this rotation time will be spent reviewing the literature or required reading for the rotation, directly observing the evaluation process, and engaging in miscellaneous duties, such as case management and documentation, case formulation, psychological screening of inmates.

**Assessment** - The use of different objective tests, gathering of personal history, and reviewing various legal and medical records is a large portion of the forensic assessment process. Each week the intern will review assessment methods and review testing materials to apply to the forensic assessment process, including the administration of four full batteries and at least two unfamiliar tests.

**Case management/Crisis intervention** - Inmates often experience acute personal problems that require immediate attention, such as receiving a long sentence, divorce, or death of a family member. In addition, crisis intervention will be needed for suicidal, psychotic, or disruptive inmates. Psychology staff will often be called upon to assist in a difficult situation or for guidance in handling a mentally ill inmate. Part of the forensic rotation will require work with at least three case management or crisis intervention cases each week.

**Administrative Detention/Disciplinary Segregation Reviews** - For those inmates on the Special Housing Unit (SHU) who are housed for thirty days or longer, a psychological evaluation will be completed. This monthly review will address the inmate's, adjustment to the surroundings and the threat posed to self, staff, and other inmates. While on this rotation, rounds will be made frequently on the Detention/Segregation Unit.

Breakdown of activities in which all interns participate in the

Forensic Evaluation Rotation

Forensic Evaluation		13 hours
Assessment		4
Case management/Crisis cases	4	
Segregation Reviews		<u>2</u>
<b>Total Time for the Forensic Evaluation Rotation</b>		<b>23 hours</b>

**Required Reading for the Forensic Evaluation Rotation**

Blocker v. United States. 288 F. 2d 853 (1961).

Committee on Ethical Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists. (1991). Specialty guidelines for forensic psychologists. Law and Human Behavior, 6, 655-665.

Dusky v. United States. 362 U. S. 402 (1960).

Grisso, T. ( 1988). Competency to stand trial evaluations: A manual for practice. Sarasota, FL: Professional Resource Exchange.

MacDonald v. United States. 312 F. 2d 847 (1962).

Shapiro, D. (1991). Forensic psychological assessment: An integrative approach. Massachusetts: Allyn and Bacon.

United States v. Brawner. 471 F. 2d 969 (D.C. Cir., 1972).

United States v. Currens. 290 F. 2d 751 (3rd Cir., 1961).

United States v. Wilson. 263 F. Supp. 528 (D.C. Cir., 1966), 391 F. 2d 460.

### **Suggested Readings**

Melton, G., Petrila, J., Poythress, N., & Slobogin (1987). Psychological evaluations for the courts: A handbook for mental health professionals and lawyers. New York: Guilford Press.

Millon, T. (1981). Disorders of personality DSM-III-R: Axis II. New York: John Wiley and Sons.

Moloney, M. P. (1985). A clinician's guide to forensic psychological assessment. New York: The Free Press.

O'Leary, K. M., Brouwers, P., Gardner, D. L., & Cowdry, R. W. (1991). Neuropsychological testing with borderline personality disorder. The American Journal of Psychiatry, 148, 106-111.

Roberts, C. F., & Golding, S. L. (1991). The social construction of criminal responsibility and insanity. Law and Human Behavior, 5, 349-376.

Rogers, R. (1986). Conducting insanity evaluations. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company.

Rogers, R. (Ed.). (1988). Clinical assessment of malingering and deception. New York: The Guilford Press.

Simon, R. I. (Ed.). (1992). Review of clinical psychiatry and the law. Washington D.C.: American Psychiatric Press.

Simon, R. I. (1987). Clinical psychiatry and the law. Washington D.C.: American Psychiatric Press.

Tardiff, K. (1989). Concise guide to assessment and management of violent patients. Washington, D.C.: American Psychiatric Press.

Taylor, R. (1990). Distinguishing psychological from organic disorders: Screening for psychological masquerade. New York: Springer Publishing Company.

Weiner, I. B., & Hess, A. K. (1987). Handbook of forensic psychology. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Wexler, D. B. (1990). Therapeutic jurisprudence: The law as a therapeutic agent. North Carolina: Carolina Academic Press.

Widiger, T. A., & Shea, T. (1991). Differentiation of axis I and axis II disorders. Journal of Abnormal Psychology, 100, 399- 406.

Yochelson, S., & Samenow, S. E. (1989). Criminal personality (Vols. 1-3). New Jersey: Jason Aronson.

Ziskin, J., & Faust, D. (1988). Coping with psychiatric and psychological testimony (Vols 1-3). Los Angeles: Law and Psychology Press.

## **MENTAL HEALTH ROTATION**

Supervisor: Lisa Hope, Psy.D.

The Mental Health Rotation deals primarily with inmates on the Special Programs Unit (SPU). The SPU serves as a placement for individuals suffering from mental disorders, severe personality disorders, or medical conditions that require greater control, supervision, or monitoring than afforded on a general housing unit. This unit also serves to house suicidal inmates on formal suicide precautions status. The primary goal for inmates placed on this unit is preparation for a successful transition into general population housing.

Responsibilities on this rotation will require the use of clinical interviewing skills to conduct initial evaluations and suicide risk assessments. Interns will also be involved in crisis intervention, brief psychotherapy, group therapy, case management, psychiatric and staff consultation.

### **Rotation Content Areas**

**Initial Evaluations** - A complete evaluation will be performed on each inmate who is placed on the SPU or those inmates identified as potential mental health inmates. The evaluation includes a clinical interview, a mental status exam, a review of the background information, behavioral observations, and psychological testing when necessary. A range of psychological assessment instruments are available for use, including traditional intellectual and personality measures, as well as more specific measures for symptom and suicide risk assessments. The goal is to identify individuals suffering from a mental illness and maximize treatment potential, while attempting to maintain the safety of the inmate and others.

**Suicide Assessments** - Inmates who are thought to have an imminent potential for suicide will be placed on SPU. Psychology Services staff will evaluate the risk potential of the inmate and if suicide potential is high, the inmate will be placed on formal suicide watch. Suicide prevention watch cases will be housed in one of the two cells designated for suicide prevention watch on the unit. Individuals on suicide prevention watch status will be managed according to the procedures outlined under the suicide prevention watch section of the SPU policies brochure.

The suicide risk and suicide watch forms, in addition to an intake screening form, are to be completed. If a formal watch is initiated, the inmate is seen for treatment on a daily basis. Transfer to observation status, the SPU general population, or another unit will occur once the inmate's risk potential has substantially diminished. He/she will remain on a psychology staff member's caseload throughout the duration of the stay at MDC-LA.

**Crisis Intervention** - Inmates often experience acute personal problems that require immediate attention, such as receiving a long sentence, divorce, or death of a family member. In addition, crisis intervention will be needed for suicidal, psychotic, or disruptive inmates. Psychology staff will often be called upon to assist in a difficult situation or for guidance in handling a mentally ill inmate.

**Brief Counseling** - The occurrence of brief psychotherapy depends on the needs of the inmate and length of his/her stay at this institution. However, inmates who are on suicide watch or in acute crisis will obviously need more intensive treatment. The intern's caseload will consist of approximately eight to ten cases on the SPU, with additional general population cases as assigned. Individual brief counseling sessions will be documented, and the progress reviewed during individual supervision.

**Group Therapy** - The psychology intern on this rotation will become familiar with all the mental health inmates on the SPU. Group therapy will be conducted both alone and in conjunction with a staff psychologist for these inmates.

**Case Management** - Often circumstances require a case management approach. Thus, the interns' communication and consultation skills will be utilized. One of the requirements of this rotation will be attendance at the weekly mental health inmate meeting. During this meeting, staff review all high profile cases and the status of those inmates on the Special Programs Unit. Included in this meeting are representatives from the executive staff, the hospital, unit management, custody, and psychology.

**Psychiatric Consultation** - This institution has a consulting psychiatrist who provides four hours of psychiatric consultation each week. During the mental health rotation, the psychology intern will schedule psychiatric appointments and spend an average of four hours a week sitting in during the psychiatric consultations. Important information from the consults will be shared at the staff meeting.

Breakdown of activities in which interns participate in the

Mental Health Rotation

Initial Evaluations	3
Suicide Assessments	3
Crisis Intervention	5
Brief Counseling	5
Group Therapy	1
Case Management	2
Psychiatric Consultation	<u>4</u>
<b>Total Time for Mental Health Rotation</b>	<b>23 hours</b>

### **Required Reading for the Mental Health Rotation**

During the first week of the rotation, time should be spent reviewing the following documents:

- Venice Unit Plan: General Policies and Procedures
- Venice Unit Plan: Special Instructions for Psychologists
- Procedures: Lockdown Observation Status, Suicide Watch, Suicide Watch for Females
- Post Orders: Special Instructions for 8 South Annex Officers
- Psychology files of inmates housed on SPU
- Suicide Prevention Program Statement
- Suicide Prevention Institution Supplement
- Suicide Risk Assessment Forms
- Suicide Watch Forms
- Use of Force and Application of Restraints Program Statement
- Use of Force Medications Program Statement

Bongar, B. (1991). The suicidal patient: Clinical and legal standards of care. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Hayes, L. (1995). Prison suicide: An overview and guide to prevention. U.S. Department of Justice: National Institute of Corrections.

Jacobs, D. (Ed.). (1992). Suicide and clinical practice. Washington, D.C.: American Psychiatric Press.

Lion, R. (1987). Clinical assessment of violent patients. In L. Roth (Ed.), Clinical treatment of the violent person (pp. 1-19). New York Guilford Press.

Linehan, M. (1993). Cognitive behavioral treatment of borderline personality disorder. New York: Guilford Press.

Maltsberger, J. T. (1986). Suicide risk: The formulation of clinical judgment. New York: New York University Press.

Roth, L. (1987). Treating violent persons in prisons, jails, and security hospitals. In L. Roth (Ed.) Clinical treatment of the violent person (pp. 207-234). New York Guilford Press.

Slaikeu, K. A. (1984). Crisis intervention: A handbook for practice and research. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.



- Sommers-Flanagan, J., & Sommers- Flanagan, R. (1995). Intake interviewing with suicidal patients: A systematic approach. Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 26(1), 41-47.
- Wright, J., Thase, M., Beck, A., & Lundate, J. (Eds). (1993). Cognitive therapy with inpatients. New York: Guilford Press.

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS**

For over thirty years the Bureau of Prisons has relied on the Psychology Internship Program to provide a large proportion of the number of entry-level clinical and counseling psychologists required to meet staffing needs. About 60% of the psychologists currently employed by the Bureau began their careers after completing internships with us.

Projections continue to indicate an increase in the inmate census over present levels. Additional psychologist positions are likely to be created, partly to respond to the mental health needs of these new federal prisoners. While we do not promise jobs automatically to those who are accepted into the Internship Program, we prefer to hire people who have already proven themselves to be competent practitioners in correctional environments. Therefore, we will look to our intern classes first in making employment offers.

Newly selected staff, who have just completed their doctoral programs, typically start at the GS-11 salary level. However, particularly well-qualified individuals with more experience may be offered higher starting salaries. Upon successful completion of their first year, psychologists are automatically upgraded to the GS-12 level with further increases to the GS-13 and GS-14 levels possible. Many staff psychologists become Department Heads within several years of joining the Bureau.

In the Bureau of Prisons, psychologists enjoy a great deal of professional autonomy. We are the main providers of mental health services. Our departments are not subordinated to the decisions of psychiatrists. As a staff psychologist, you would have the opportunity to be involved in:

- Forensic Evaluations for the Federal Courts
- Psychological Evaluations of Candidates for the Witness Protection Program
- Hostage Negotiation Training
- Drug Abuse Treatment Programs
- Suicide Prevention Program
- Crisis Intervention Response Team for Trauma Victims
- Pre-Doctoral Internship Training Program
- Employee Assistant Program
- Inpatient Mental Health Program
- Staff Training
- Research

Annual continuing education, currently funded at \$1000 by the Bureau, is guaranteed as a part of each psychologist's professional development program. Many attend seminars, workshops, or the annual APA convention. Considerable latitude is allowed in making choices.

Psychologists also have the opportunity to choose the part of the country and, given the availability of positions, the type of facility -- maximum, medium, and minimum security -- in which they wish to work. Those who prefer more traditional settings may find the Bureau of Prisons' medical centers, such as those located in Springfield, Missouri, Rochester, Minnesota, Carswell, Texas, Ft. Worth, Texas, or the psychiatric referral center at Butner, North Carolina, more desirable.

As federal employees, all new psychologists are covered by the Federal Employee Retirement System, a pension plan which includes several attractive options for sheltering extra income similar to a Keogh Plan. Bureau employees may retire after 20 years, provided they have reached the age of 50, and receive a full pension. The Bureau of Prisons is an equal opportunity employer. However, in accordance with Public Law 100-238, applicants for entry-level staff positions must not have reached their 37th birthday at the time of appointment. Waivers are possible up to age 40.

## **APPLYING TO THE PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

### **Requirements and Procedures**

The positions offered for the 2004-2005 year are open to all students enrolled doctoral programs in clinical and counseling psychology. Preference is given to those from APA-accredited schools. In order to be internship eligible, students must have successfully completed all doctoral course work, other than the dissertation, by the beginning of the internship. The Bureau of Prisons is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages the application of minority students.

All applicants must be registered with the National Matching Services, Inc. in order to be eligible for this internship program. Positions will be filled strictly in accordance with APPIC policy. All application materials should be mailed to the (acting) Director of Psychology Training, Dr. Maureen Burris.

### **THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS IS NOVEMBER 15**

After the deadline, completed application packages at MDC-LA are evaluated and candidates are invited for an interview. Interviews will generally be held during December and January. A personal interview at the site has obvious advantages for both parties. No telephone interviews will be conducted.

**All Bureau of Prisons positions are designated as "sensitive." Consequently, applicants must successfully complete a security clearance procedure before the offer of an internship position can be considered final. This procedure includes an Integrity Interview with our Human Resources Department, as well as a background investigation and drug screen.**

### **Required Materials**

You may apply to one or more of the Bureau of Prisons internship programs and your credentials will be evaluated independently at each site. However, in order to assure this, you will need to submit a separate, completed package to each program for which you wish to be considered.

To have your application considered, **all** application materials must be received by **November 15**.

All completed applications at MDC-LA will include:

1. APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI). The AAPI is available from the APPIC web site at <http://www.appic.org/>
2. Signed, original Academic Program's Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness form.
3. Official transcripts of all graduate work, **mailed to us by the institution.**
4. Optional Application for Federal Employment - OF 612. This completed form is **required** by MDC-LA in order for your application to be considered.
5. Current vita which lists practicum work, academic and professional experience, and research.
6. Three letters of recommendation from sources able to evaluate your work in psychology and your personal qualifications. If you want your Training Director to serve as a reference, he/she must write a traditional letter with a narrative account of your abilities and characteristics.
7. One work sample with all identifying data eliminated. Select an adult client whose report, at minimum, includes background information, current behavioral observations, results of a battery of psychological tests, and a formulation of the case.
8. Responses to questions on the Site-Specific Application for MDC-LA, which can be found on the last page of this brochure.

Psychology Services at MDC-Los Angeles is proud of its Psychology Internship Program. We look forward to having an opportunity to talk with you about it. If you have questions before beginning the application procedure, contact:

**Maureen Burris, Ph.D.**  
**(Acting) Director of Psychology Training**  
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**SAMPLE OF INTERN TRAINING SEMINAR TOPICS  
OFFERED AT MDC-LOS ANGELES**

Review of DSM-IV

Ethical Principles

Suicide Assessment/Prevention

Crisis Intervention

Psychotic Disorders

Organic Disorders

Working with Borderline Clients

Hostage Negotiation

Cross-Cultural Issues with African-Americans

Working with Latinos

AIDS/HIV

Psychopharmacology

Professional Issues

Court Testimony

Tour of Local Correctional Facilities

Drug Abuse Treatment

California Licensing Requirements

Safety and Security Issues

Working with Sexual Minority Clients

## **APPIC POLICY REGARDING INTERNSHIP MATCHING**

The Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) has developed guidelines for procedures used in student-internship matching. The guidelines have evolved over time and will continue to do so as APPIC remains responsive to the varied concerns around this issue. This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant.

The internship at MDC-LA is participating in the APPIC Internship Matching Program. **All applicants must obtain an Application Agreement Package from the National Matching Services, Inc. (NMS) and register for the matching program in order to be eligible to match to our program.**

**SITE-SPECIFIC APPLICATION**  
**METROPOLITAN DETENTION CENTER**  
**LOS ANGELES**

Please answer each of the following questions in 200 words or less. **Respond to each question on a separate sheet. Be sure your name is on each response page.**

1. Describe experiences providing drug/alcohol treatment.
2. Describe experiences providing treatment to the chronically mentally ill, including inpatient and outpatient treatment.
3. Describe experiences in forensic and/or correctional settings.
4. What, in particular, interests you about the internship program at MDC-LA?
5. What are your goals for the internship year?

**ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE DUE AT MDC-LA BY NOVEMBER 15**